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# Parties Argue Defense Score, Both Missing Basic Issue

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Former President Dwight Eisenhower outscored the Kennedy-Johnson administration 57 to 8 in major military research and development projects, a Republican military study group says.

A Defense Department spokesman replied with a list that knocked 13 claimed projects off the Republican score, added 16 to the Kennedy-Johnson side, and also claimed a foul.

The Republican report counted eight years of Eisenhower projects and only three of Kennedy-Johnson's, said Arthur Sylvester, assistant secretary of defense.

But whether the score was 57 to 8 in the Republicans favor or 6 to 5.5 per year in the Democrat's favor (adjusting the scores projectwise and timewise as the Democrats insist) neither side addressed itself to the basic issue.

## Change in Policy

There has been a change in research and development policy under Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara that makes the numbers game beside the point.

Under Eisenhower, the Defense Department concentrated on developing promising weapons to the limit of the budget. There were never enough weapons developed to suit the services — or the Democratic critics.

Under McNamara, the Defense Department concentrates on developing components (engines, guidance systems, warheads, for instance) and only puts them together to form a new weapon (an airplane or missile) when studies demonstrate a need. This does not please the services — or the Republicans.

The "weapons" approach of Eisenhower versus the "building blocks" concept of McNamara is the real issue.

## The Republican "Task Force on Peace Through Preparedness"

is headed by Neil H. McElroy, a secretary of defense under Eisenhower. Working with him on a series

of military reports for Sen. Barry Goldwater are former Sen. Prescott Bush, R-Conn.; Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich.; Wilfred McNeil, defense controller under Eisenhower, and Adm. Arthur Radford and Gen. Nathan F. Twining, both retired chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Despite the Communist threats and the obsolescence of Eisenhower administration weapons, "there are increasing and deeply disturbing indications that the present administration has for four years neglected and stifled innovation, thwarted the origination of new systems and cancelled promising projects," the Republican group charged.

"The Democrats justify 'negative' defense decisions by downgrading estimates of potential enemy capabilities," the GOP report stated.

Most of the blame was out on civilian decisions overruling military requests.

The report listed major Eisenhower and Kennedy-Johnson research projects. The Democrats were credited with only a handful—a Navy attack plane, the TFX fighter-bomber, a cargo plane and some small missiles.

Sylvester called the report "inaccurate."

"In the past four years," Sylvester said, "there has been a 50 percent increase in expenditure for military research and development over the level prevailing during the four prior years."

"In four years we have invested over \$25 billion in military research and development, \$1 billion more than was spent during the entire eight previous years."

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Sylvester said that the Republican report omitted 11 major Democratic programs, including the Minuteman II ICBM, the Nike X ballistic missile defense system and assorted smaller missiles and aircraft.

But the Republican study, Sylvester said, takes credit for several planes developed by private capital for commercial use, an Army plane developed by Canada and a few projects actually originated by President Kennedy.

## McNamara's Beliefs

To return to the real issue: McNamara believes that the Eisenhower approach wasted many billions of dollars on marginal and redundant weapons. McNamara tries to get more results per dollar by developing components of possible future weapons and postponing the expensive decisions to put the components together and create weapons.

By improving components while waiting for a clear need for a new weapon, McNamara says, he will ultimately get a better weapon for less money.

Goldwater believes that the weapons too often are vetoed by this process, not improved or merely delayed.

For instance, the Senator wants work started now on a new long-range bomber.

McNamara is willing to approve research and development on new engines and navigation and bombing equipment, but he will postpone a decision on the plane until existing bombers can no longer be effectively modernized or until what he believes to be a more serious Communist threat appears.